



Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks  
1620 East 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Helena, MT 59620  
406-444-2535

December 8, 2017

Dear Bridger Special CWD Hunt Deer B License Holder:

Thank you for participating in the Bridger Special CWD Hunt. Depending on the type of B License you purchased it is valid only for a mule deer or only for a white-tailed deer, but not for both, and it may be for either-sex or antlerless only, but not both. The hunt will begin on December 15 and end when the harvest quota of 200 deer of each species is reached or on February 15, whichever comes first. It is possible that the hunt for one species may end before the hunt for the other species.

CWD has been found in deer in Region 5 in Hunting Districts 502 and 510. CWD is an always-fatal disease of deer, elk and moose that is like mad cow disease in cattle, but it is not known to affect humans or livestock. If left unmanaged so that a large percentage of a herd becomes infected, CWD could cause significant population declines in the decades to come. CWD has not been found in the wild in Montana before this, but we at Fish, Wildlife and Parks are taking this very seriously.

Now that we know CWD is here, our next step is to determine the geographic distribution and the percent of the herd that is infected to guide future management. Because there are no good tests for live animals, we need to sample harvested deer. That's where you come in. Special regulations for the hunt are on the back of the attached map. Two important aspects of this special hunt are the Initial Response Area (IRA) and the Transport Restriction Zone (TRZ) described below.

**The Initial Response Area (IRA).** The Initial Response Area (IRA) is the area around where the infected deer were harvested and is shown and described on the attached map. The IRA is where the Special CWD Hunt will occur, and your license is only valid in the IRA.

**The Transport Restriction Zone (TRZ) – Carbon and Yellowstone Counties.** To prevent spread of CWD, whole carcasses or whole heads and/or spinal columns may not be taken out of Carbon or Yellowstone Counties unless the animal has tested negative for CWD. The TRZ is big enough so that hunters have access to meat processors and/or taxidermists.

It is in the best interest of all Montanans to manage CWD, and we sincerely appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

John Vore  
Game Management Bureau Chief